

Remarks

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification at page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 10. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 5, 18, 25, and 28. The Examiner's comments and rejections are addressed below.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner requested that the antecedent basis for the new subject matter of claims 1, 18, and 28 be inserted into the specification. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification at page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 10 to overcome the Examiner's objection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 25 by deleting the word "non-porous" and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 18-21, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,505,766 ("Chang"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, in light of the amendments to the claims.

Claim 5 has been amended to recite "a means for passing a contaminated gas over said sorbent structure having said fresh sorbent thereon to produce saturated sorbent without passing said contaminated gas stream through said sorbent structure." In contrast, Chang does not teach a means for gas to pass over the surface of a sorbent structure without passing through the sorbent structure.

The Examiner has suggested that claims 18 and 28 be amended to include the passing of contaminated gas with respect to the sorbent structure and the fluid inlet and outlet of the duct rather than the ends of the duct in order to more clearly distinguish the claims over Chang. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 18 and 28 to recite "... a gas duct

having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet and having a sorbent structure comprising a sorbent disposed within the gas duct between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet, wherein at least a portion of the gas stream passes from the fluid inlet to the fluid outlet without passing through the sorbent structure....”

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections as to independent claims 5, 18 and 28. Applicants also respectfully request that the rejections as to dependent claims 19-21 and 27-28 be withdrawn based upon amendments to the independent claims from which they depend.

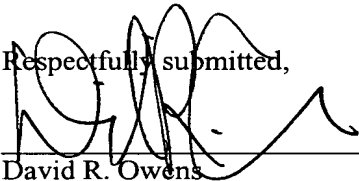
Conclusion

Applicants note that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-4 and 6-17. In view of the above considerations, Applicants believe that all of the currently pending claims are in conditions for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining issues.

Applicants believe that an extension fee of \$110.00 is due with this submission. Please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.

Date: October 27, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Owens
For Gary S. Williams

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(Reg. No.)
31,066